Determination of Public Land (Rangeland) Health for 65093 RHODES WANDA HALEY

The Record of Decision (ROD) for the New Mexico Standards for Public Land Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management (dated January 2001) adopted three Standards for Public Land Health. These are (1) Upland Sites Standard, (2) Biotic Communities, Including Native, Threatened, Endangered, and Special Status Species Standard and (3) Riparian Sites Standard.

The ROD also established a process for the BLM Field Offices for implementation. Through a public participation process, the Roswell Field Office developed and adopted these indicators to use in conjunction with existing monitoring data to assess these standards.

Field assessment worksheets and other available data that evaluate local indicators were completed for this allotment. Based on these assessments, it is my determination that public land within Rhodes Wanda Haley, allotment #65093, meets the (1) Upland Sites standard and (2) Biotic Communities, including Native, Threatened, Endangered, and Special Status Species standard. There are no public land Riparian areas on this allotment, therefore this standard was not addressed.

/s/ Eddie Bateson	8/8/2006
Field Manager	Date

Standards of Public Land Health
Evaluation of 65093 RHODES WANDA HALEY Allotment
[12/19/2005]

The Roswell Field Office conducted rangeland health assessments at one (1) study site within the Rhodes Wanda Haley allotment #65093. This assessments evaluated Soil/Site Stability, Hydrologic Function and Biotic Integrity indicators within each study site location. Existing monitoring data was incorporated into and in support of these field assessments. A summary of each assessment is attached and shown in the following table.

Study Area or Assessment Area	UPLAND			BIOTIC			RIPARIAN		
	Meets	Monitor an Indicator	Does Not Meet	Meets	Monitor an Indicator	Does Not Meet	Meets	Monitor an Indicator	Does Not Meet
65093-HALEY-D260	X			X			N/A		

Twenty -two (22) indicators for Rangeland Health were evaluated for public land on Rhodes Wanda Haley #65093. Ten (10) of these assessed soil site stability, 11 hydrologic function and 13 biotic integrity. These qualitative assessments in conjunction with quantitative information gathered from previous data collected on one location were utilized to assess rangeland health of public land within this allotment. This allotment is a "C" (custodial) category due to small amounts of public land present.

Recent dry conditions have impacted this allotment and surrounding vicinity. No livestock were observed in this pasture at evaluation. This non-permanent study location has two previous collections; one in 1989 and 2004. Located right off Buffalo Valley road and Aberdeen, this SD-3 shallow ecological site is a Tencee gravelly sandy loam nearly level to gently rolling soil occurring on uplands east of the Pecos River. This soil is well drained and is very shallow to shallow to indurated caliche previously formed in gravelly and cobbly alluvium on uplands. Slope is 1 to 9 percent on 96 acres/39 hectares. The majority of indicators assessed rated None to Slight and Slight to Moderate with very few departures from ecological reference areas, indicating normal ranges of variability. Mule deer (Odocoileus hemionus) and lagomorph sign was abundant as this parcel is adjacent to agricultural fields eastward. Creosote (Larrea tridentata), mesquite (Prosopis glandulosa), snakeweed (Gutierrezia sarothrae), dogweed (Dyssodia spp.) and javelinabush (Condalia spp.) are some brush species present and scattered rating invasive plants Moderate. Black grama (Bouteloua eriopoda), threeawn (Aristida spp.), bush muhly (Muhlenbergia porteri) and fluffgrass (Dasyochloa pulchella) are some upland grass species with tobosa (Pleuraphis mutica) and burrograss (Scleropogon brevifolius) dominating depressional areas. Annual production is down from previous years but

remains suitable for adequate ground cover and site protection. Physical and biological crust was observed and holding soil in place along with gravel and small rock which is condusive to adequate infiltration rates. Wildlife habitat is suitable with browse and graminoid species available. The mixture of shrubs provides adequate cover for deer, quail, lagomorphs and other types of wildlife.

In the professional opinion of the Assessment Team, public land within Rhodes Wanda Haley, allotment #65093 meets Upland and Biotic standards. There are no Riparian areas within this allotment therefore this standard was not addressed. See site notes and recommendations for further information pertinent to this allotment.

Recommendations: Continued prudent livestock management and timely evaluations should be practiced for this allotment. This site is no doubtedly frequented by hunters for deer and upland game birds and remains in fair to good condition. No brush concerns exist at present.

RFOs Upland and Biotic Standard Assessment Summary Worksheet			
SITE 65093-HALEY-D260			
Legal Land Desc	SWSE 18 0140S 0270E Meridian 23	Acreage	96
Ecosite	042CY025NM SHALLOW SD-3	Photo Taken	Y
Watershed	13060007070 LONG		
Observers	NAVARRO/ARTHUN	Observation Date	01/17/2006
County Soil Survey	NM666 CHAVES SOUTH	Soil Var/Taxad	
Soil Map Unit		Soil Taxon Name	
Texture Class	NM666	Soil Phase	
Texture Modifier	NM666		
Observed Avg Annual Precipitation		Observed Avg Growing Season Precipitation	
NOAA Annual Precipitation	13.04	NOAA Growing Season Precipitation	8.93
NOAA Avg Annual Precipitation	12.54	NOAA Avg Growing Season Precipitation	10.43
Disturbances and Animal Use:	No evidence of livestock or use. jackrabbits are utilizing the bark of the mesquite, acacia and creosote.		

Part 2. Attributes and Indicators

		Departure from Ecological Site Description/Ecological Reference Areas				
Attribute	Indicators	Extreme	Moderate to Extreme	Moderate	Slight to Moderate	None to Slight
S H	Rills					X
Comments:						
S H	Water Flow Patterns				X	
Comments:						
S H	Pedestals and/or Terracettes				X	
Comments:						
S H	Bare Ground				X	
Comments:	Current estimate is 20%. Rock cover over the long-term is 28%.					
S H	Gullies				X	
Comments:	Some past gullying activity, but vegetation has stabilized the slopes.					

S	Wind-scoured, Blowouts, and/or Deposition Areas					X
Comments:						
H	Litter Movement				X	
Comments:						
S H B	Soil Surface Resistance to Erosion				X	
Comments:						
S H B	Soil Surface Loss or Degradation				X	
Comments:						
H	Plant Community Composition and Distribution Relative to Infiltration and Runoff				X	
Comments:						
S H B	Compaction Layer					X
Comments:						
B	Functional/Structural Groups				X	
Comments:	Only slight deviations exist.					
B	Plant Mortality/Decadence					X
Comments:						
H B	Litter Amount					
Comments:	Current estimate is 20% exceeding the long-term and ESD values.					
B	Annual Production				X	
Comments:	350-400 lbs/ac or kg/ha is the current estimate; taking into account the bottom portion of the pasture with more growth.					
B	Invasive Plants			X		
Comments:	Mesquite is scattered throughout.					
B	Reproductive Capability of Perennial Plants					X
Comments:						
S	Physical/Chemical/Biological Crusts				X	
Comments:	Bio and physical crusts observed fairly uniform in places with some breaks in continuity.					
B	Wildlife Habitat				X	

Comments:	Lagomorph and mule deer sign.					
B	Wildlife Populations				X	
Comments:						
B	Special Status Species Habitat					X
Comments:	N/A					
B	Special Status Species Populations					X
Comments:	N/A					

Part 3. Summary

A. Indicator Summary - Each of the indicators are associated with one or more of the attributes below. An indicator is placed in a category (columns) above and summed for each of the Standard Attributes.

Standard Attribute		Extreme	Moderate to Extreme	Moderate	Slight to Moderate	None to Slight
S	Soil	0	0	0	7	3
H	Hydrologic	0	0	0	8	2
B	Biotic	0	0	1	6	5

B. Attribute Summary. In this table, the Extreme and Extreme to Moderate columns in the table above are merged for the *Does not Meet* column, Moderate becomes *May Need More Info*, and Slight to Moderate and None to Slight merge to form the *Meets* columns. Values from the table are summarized below. Space is provided for rationale of the determination. This space should most certainly be used when the determination by the ID team conflicts with the summarized values. Provide the sources of information that lead to the determination. X out the appropriate box for each attribute to denote final agreed upon determination by the ID team.

Attribute	Rationale	Does Not Meet	May Need More Info	Meets
Soil		0	0	10
Hydrologic		0	0	10
Biotic		0	1	11

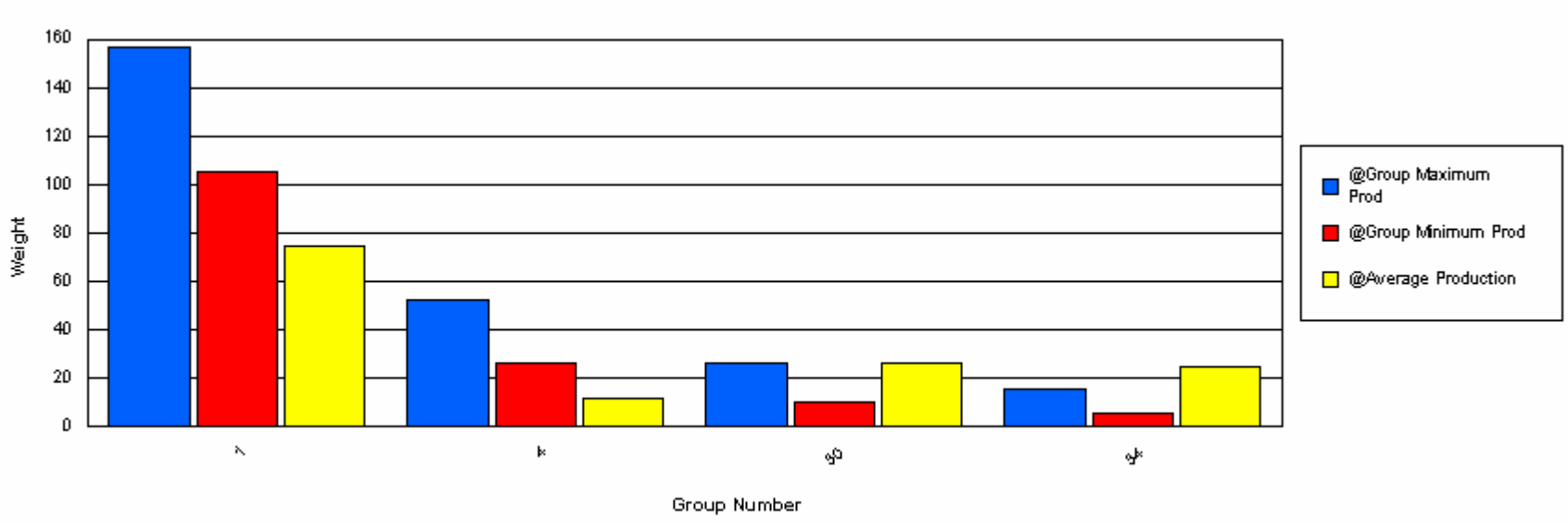
Site Notes: Upland and bottomland areas for this pasture include burrograss, creosote,

mesquite, fluffgrass, black grama, condalia, dyssodia, snakeweed, threeawn and bush muhly. Two previous data collections in 1989 and 2004. Evidence of lagomorph activity and mule deer sign observed. No livestock in this pasture at the moment.

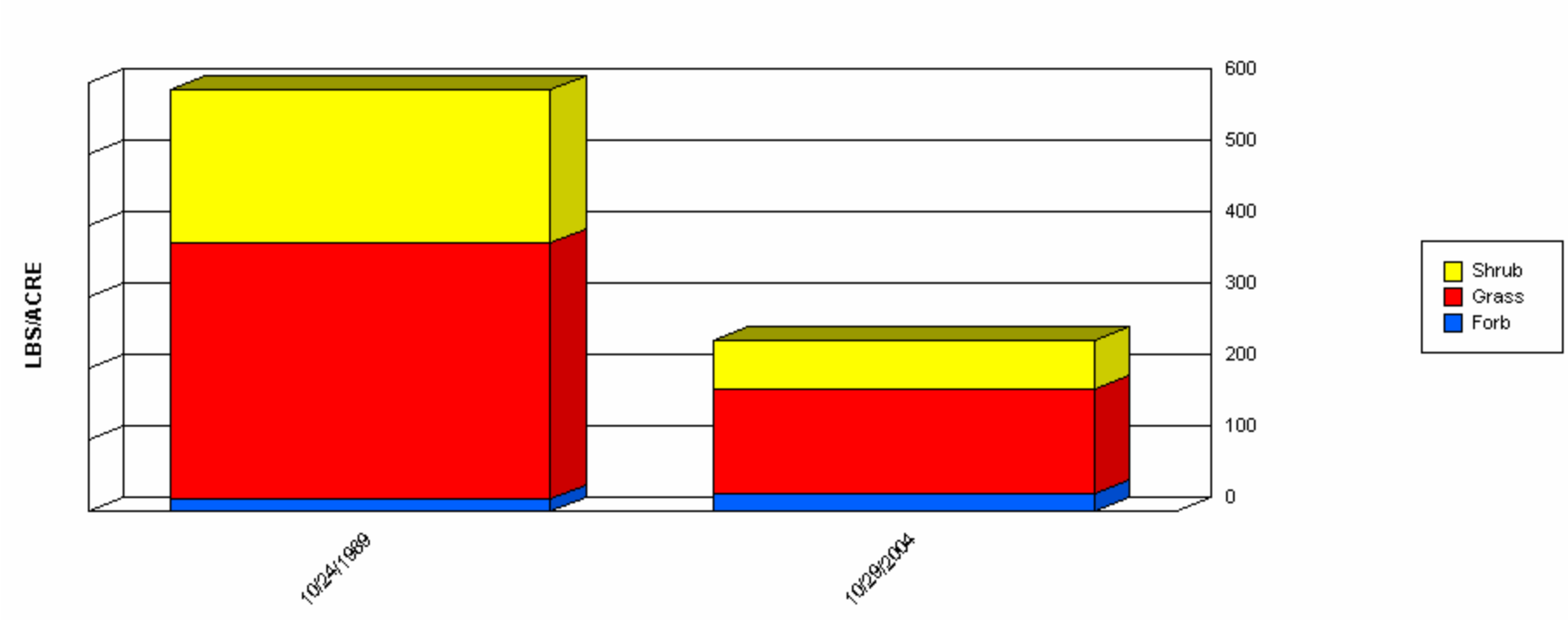
Functional / Structural Groups

Report Parameters	
SITE NAME LIKE	65093-HALEY-D260
ON/AFTER	10/01/1988
ON/BEFORE	09/30/2006
MIN LBS TO GRAPH	5
SELECTED ECOSITE	042CY025NM

Group	Plant Type	Species	Low Wt Allowed	High Wt Allowed	Minimum	Maximum	Average	STDEV
1	Grass	BOER4	105	157	65.32	84.00	74.66	9.34
4	Grass	MUPO2	26	52	6.70	16.00	11.35	4.65
11	Grass	MUAR2	15	26	0.53	2.00	1.27	0.74
30	Shrub	PRGL2	10	26	9.50	43.00	26.25	16.75
34	Shrub	GUSA2	5	15	6.35	43.00	24.68	18.33



Production Lbs/Acre Trends

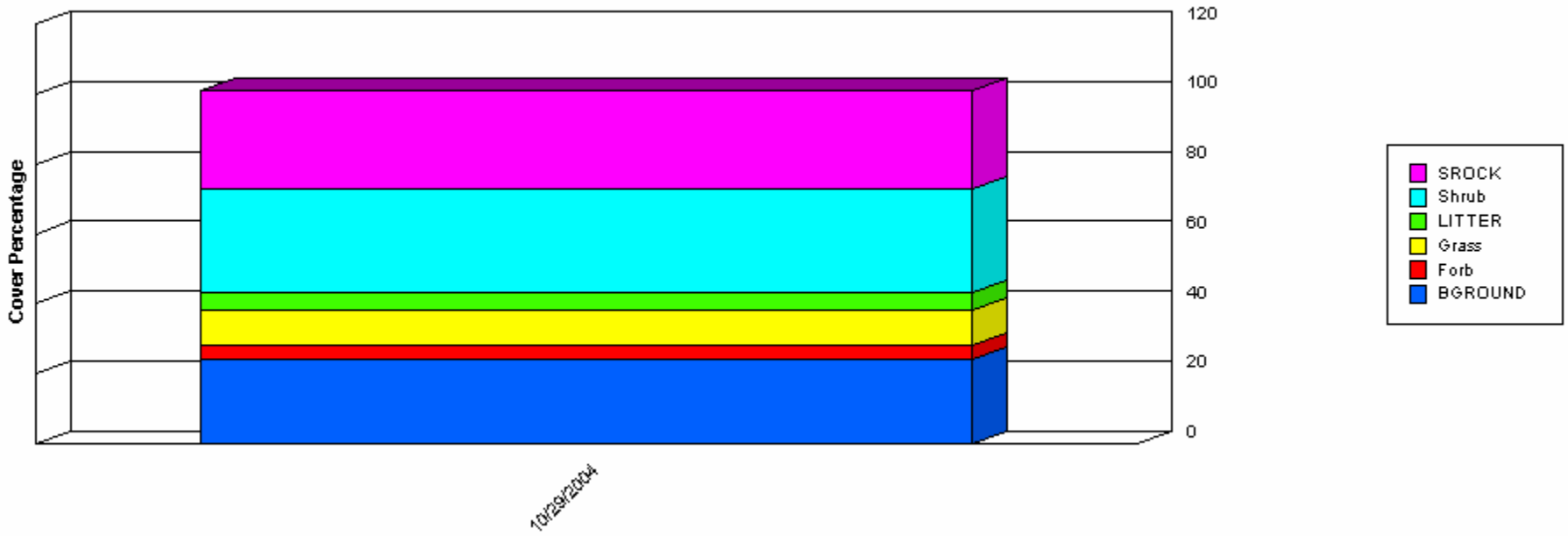


	10/24/1989	10/29/2004
Forb	**17.00**	**25.83**
Grass	**360.00**	**145.87**
Shrub	**215.00**	**68.43**
Total	**592.00**	**240.13**

Report Parameters

SITE NAME LIKE	65093-HALEY-D260
ON/AFTER	10/01/1988
ON/BEFORE	09/30/2006

Ground Cover Trends



	10/29/2004
BGROUND	24.00
Forb	4.00
Grass	10.00
LITTER	5.00
Shrub	30.00
SROCK	28.00
Total	101.00

Report Parameters

SITE NAME LIKE	65093-HALEY-D260
ON/AFTER	10/01/1988
ON/BEFORE	09/30/2006